

Comptroller General of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

## **Decision**

Matter of: Energy Management Corporation

File: B-241489; B-241491; B-241492; B-241493

Date: November 19, 1990

Francis M. Mack, Esq., Richardson, Plowden, Grier, & Howser, for the protester.

Herbert F. Kelley, Jr., Esq., Department of the Army, for the

agency.

Charles W. Morrow, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, GAO, participated in the preparation of the decision.

## DIGEST

Where the contracting agency initiates debarment proceedings against the protester, it is no longer an interested party eligible to maintain a protest under our Bid Protest Regulations.

## DECISION

Energy Management Corporation (EMC) protests by letter dated October 4, 1990, that the Department of the Army's alleged refusal to award it contracts under invitations for bids (IFB) Nos. DABT47-90-0070, -0082, -0100, and -0648, for contract work at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, constituted a de facto debarment.

By letter to EMC dated October 30, 1990, the Army initiated debarment proceedings against EMC. Under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) § 9.405 (FAC 84-57), firms proposed for debarment are excluded from receiving government contracts pending a final debarment decision. Therefore, EMC is not eligible for award under the IFBs, and is thus not an interested party, eligible to maintain a protest under our

Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. §§ 21.0(a), (b) and 21.1(a) (1990); Meyer and Lillian Blinder, B-238783, May 11, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 468, aff'd B-238783.2, June 26, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 594; Syllor Inc./Ease Chemical, B-236161.2 et al., Jan. 2, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 1.

The protests are dismissed.

Junes a. Springenting

James A. Spangenberg

Assistant General Counsel